

Connections

May 2012

Keep Missourians and MoDOT Staff Safe

by Tammy Wallace

An organizational culture centered around one basic element – SAFETY. Sounds simple enough, and given the type of work the majority of us do every day it certainly makes sense. But is it really that simple, to change an established organization's culture? Maybe not simple, but certainly worthy of the level of effort it will take to move over 5,000 employees in one direction and focusing on the same goal - zero injuries.

"Keep Missourians and MoDOT Staff Safe", one of MoDOT's Next Great Things, was the task at hand for a focus group led by State Traffic and Highway Safety Engineer Eileen Rackers. Their charge was to develop a comprehensive safety plan for MoDOT, designed to create a change in MoDOT's safety culture for employees, transportation partners and the traveling public. The group developed the plan and gained the approval and support of senior management. Chief Engineer Dave Nichols recently introduced the new safety



Chief Engineer Dave Nichols discusses the new safety culture with supervisors.

culture to a large group of systems operations supervisors.

Nichols stressed the ultimate goal is zero injuries. "It is our duty as an organization to make sure we are doing everything we can to keep our employees safe. It's all about employees taking responsibility for their safety and the safety of their co-workers, and management providing the environment, equipment and training to support it. We want everyone to go home uninjured every day."

The focus group is working on the details

of the comprehensive plan, which includes many components; like spending time each day to discuss safety, and new or updated policies and procedures. The plan will be implemented and communicated in stages over the next several months.

The first stage is underway as supervisors are beginning to communicate the vision,

philosophy and culture messages to employees. Individual safety pledges and one-team agreements are being signed by employees as a first step towards embracing the new safety culture.

"Safety must be in the forefront of everything we do," said Rackers. "We truly can change our culture if all of us make that commitment."

As we begin transitioning into the new culture of safety, training and policies will be in place so everyone understands exactly what is expected of them, and they

**SAFETY
BEGINS
WITH YOU**

will have the tools that they need.

Team Background

Last fall a Workforce Safety Incentive Team, led by Jeff Padgett and Beth Wright, was formed to develop a new safety incentive. The team was successful and found a great new program, Safety Jackpot, which you will be hearing more about in the coming weeks. With this success the team's work was expanded to include creating an entirely new safety culture within MoDOT. Jeff, Beth and the original team, along with additional sub-teams, researched and tackled many areas where safety improvements could be made.

In February, the Safety Focus Group led by Rackers was formed. The group re-

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Rollin' Over the River

by Holly Dentner

According to the locals, up to 50 trains pass through the small community of Osage City each day. The town is situated on the banks of the Osage River in eastern Cole County, where the Osage and Missouri Rivers converge.

The train tracks that cross the river and pass through town stretch across the state, moving freight and people to their destinations across Missouri and beyond. Within the next two years, a bridge construction project taking place in Osage City will have a big impact for the freight and passenger trains traveling on that rail corridor.

MoDOT has partnered with Union Pacific and Amtrak to build a new rail bridge across the Osage River at Osage City. County, state and federal officials broke ground for the project on March 29, to celebrate the beginning of the project

that will add capacity and reduce delays between Jefferson City and St. Louis.

The new bridge will unclog a major "bottleneck" that occurs because the two railroad tracks must funnel to one to cross the Osage River. When the bridge is complete at the end of 2013, the rail corridor between St. Louis and Jefferson City will consist entirely of two mainline tracks.

The project is Missouri's first rail infrastructure project to begin construction under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

"This bridge will help spark new jobs and economic growth in Missouri, both during its construction and as it helps move passengers and freight across Missouri more efficiently for many years to come," said Gov. Jay Nixon during the groundbreaking ceremony.

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A Union Pacific freight train crosses the Osage River on the existing bridge. The new bridge will be built adjacent to the existing structure.

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District Innovators Wow Showcase Judges

by Jim Dickson / photos by Steve Bushko

In what was described by one district judge as the strongest slate of district innovations, a total of 25 department innovations filled the Springfield Expo Center on April 10. The innovations ranged from simple adjustments to existing pieces of equipment or processes to newly invented tools. The innovations looked different, but they all shared the same goal, getting work done better, faster, cheaper and safer.

The 2011-12 Innovations Challenge began in November with district competitions that drew 41 submissions from across the state. The categories for this year's challenge were injury reduction,



MHTC Chair Rudy Farber discusses innovation with Craig Atkins from the Southeast District.

pavement maintenance, work zones and bridge maintenance.

"These events never cease to amaze me," said Assistant Chief Engineer Don Hillis. "Some of these are so simple and brilliant at the same time and others really show what talented fabricators we have in-house. But the real value is getting these innovations copied in maintenance buildings across the state."

The innovations were rated by both district and central office review teams on cost savings, safety, implementation, impact on the Bolder Five-Year Direction and convenience or ease of use. Twenty-five submissions made it to the Innovations Challenge Showcase

and were on display the morning prior to the start of the Spring Maintenance Meeting in Springfield.

Taking top honors was the Blade Raiser created in the St. Louis District. The winning team modified a two wheel dolly to replace snow plow blades. This innovation makes installing and removing plow and grader blades a one-person job. Securely attached to the dolly, the blade can be moved with less risk of back, foot or hand injuries. This also frees the floor jack for other jobs in the shop.

In addition to the St. Louis District's Blade Raiser, other statewide winners receiving \$425 per individual or maximum of \$1,550 per team and an extra \$10,000 for the district budget, included:

- Hydraulic Pressure Wrenches, Southeast District – a pair of customized wrenches reduces the risk of being sprayed by hot hydraulic fluid;
- Tooth Changer, Kansas City District – a customized punch and socket make removal and installation of pavement grinder teeth quick and safe;
- Waste Material for Edge Ruts, St. Louis District – large pieces of cinders are screened from cinder deliveries and used on edge ruts to reduce costs and potential windshield claims.

Other regional winners on display were:

- Bridge Patching Bracket, Central District
- Bridge Washing Attachment, Northeast District
- Bunyan Tube Holder, Northeast District



Kansas City District innovators, Chris Coon and Matt Findley, show Chief Engineer Dave Nichols how much faster and safer mill head teeth can be changed.

- Chipper-Broom Valve, Southwest District
- Culvert Shovel, Southeast District
- Deck Sealing Process, Northeast District
- Dump Basket St. Louis District
- Edge Rut Box, Southwest District
- Flush Tank, Northwest District
- Gator Getter, Kansas City District
- Joint Puller, Central Office – Bridge District
- Joint Pusher, Central District
- Safety Grab, Kansas City District
- Scoring Bit, Northwest District
- Sign Pulley, Northwest District
- Tab Remover, Northwest District
- Tree Trimming Platform, Central District
- Trimline Cone Weight Remover, Northeast District
- V-Bed Dolly, Southeast District
- Wing Plow Securer, Kansas City District
- Wonder Chute, Northwest District



MoDOT Director Kevin Keith presents Steve Fisher the Best of Show trophy and a \$10,000 check for the St. Louis District budget.

All 41 district winners received \$75 or a maximum of \$450 per team.

More information on the Innovations Challenge and the 2011-12 honorees are available at www.intranet/cr/SolutionsAtWork/Innovations.htm. You can also view a video recapping the Challenge at the same address.

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Rollin' Over the River

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The 1,200 foot bridge will be constructed by OCCI, Inc., a Fulton, Mo.-based construction company. The project also includes the construction of a second mainline track on both sides of the bridge, totaling about one-half mile.

"We are thrilled to get the Osage River bridge under construction by a local Missouri firm," said MoDOT's Multimodal Operations Division Director Michelle Teel. "This project will help maintain the much improved performance of the state-supported Missouri River Runner and benefit freight movement across the state. Without support from the federal government and our railroad partners, we couldn't make the investments necessary for such improvements."

Nearly 90 percent of the Missouri River Runner trains arrived at their end-points of St. Louis or Kansas City on-time or ahead of schedule in fiscal year 2011. These same passenger trains were operating an average of 64 percent on-time in 2008. These service improvements are directly linked to the capital investment – capacity and maintenance – that MoDOT and Union Pacific have invested on the corridor, as well as a \$5 million appropriation by the Missouri General Assembly for construction of a rail side track near California, Mo. completed in 2009.

The new Osage River Rail bridge is scheduled for completion by the end of 2013.

Keep Missourians Safe

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viewed and considered the recommendations of the original team to develop the comprehensive plan. The original team was essentially folded into the focus group.

Team Members

Focus Group: Eileen Rackers, Jeff Padgett, Beth Wright, Becky Baltz, Bill Rogers, Rudy Nickens and Kevin Ward-FHWA.

Original Workforce Safety Incentive Team

Brad Gates, Diane Sipes, Lisa Lamons, Marion Thurman, Mark Giessinger, Ray Wood, Rodney Welch, Ron Combs, Stephen Butler, Vince Reel, Jeff Lockwood. Additional Team Members: Aaron Kincaid, Gary McLarry, Jennifer Hinson, Matt Seiler, Jason Schaefer and Todd Siler. Team sponsors: Jeff Padgett and Beth Wright.

Vision Statement

To provide and promote a healthy and safe work environment every day for all MoDOT employees and transportation partners.

Management Philosophy

Safety is everyone's responsibility and our number one priority. Productivity is important, but not at the expense of employee safety.

Employee Safety Pledge

Safety begins with me. I will make my own personal safety my highest priority.

Zero Injury Philosophy

- All injuries are preventable
- No injury is acceptable
- Everyone home safe every day

MoDOT Launches Big Trucks Campaign

by DeAnne Rickabaugh

They're big – often weighing about 20 times more than a mid-sized car. Commercial motor vehicles are the giants on our highways.

But research shows that more often than not, it's the drivers of smaller vehicles, especially young people, who cause car-truck crashes, mostly due to inattention and reckless driving around

Some helpful reminders to keep you safe this travel season are:

- Don't cut off large trucks or buses. Make sure you can see the top of the truck or bus in your rearview mirror before moving back into your original lane.
- Stay out of a truck's blind spots or "No Zone". Big rigs have large blind spots on either side and up to



big rigs. And although the seat belt regulation for commercial drivers is an absolute, about one of every five truck drivers remains unbelted.

MoDOT's Big Trucks campaign is designed to help both groups adopt safer habits.

Through the use of radio spots, print ads on gas pumps and mobile billboards – print announcements on the side of special trucks – drivers of all types will receive safety messages.

200 feet behind a vehicle. Pass only on the left side.

- Watch your following distance. Keep a safety cushion around trucks. Can you see the truck's side mirrors? If not, the driver cannot see you.

To listen to the radio spots, see the ads and learn more about the Big Trucks campaign, visit www.savemolives.com.

Customer Service Just Got Better

by Marisa Ellison / photos by Cathy Morrison

One way MoDOT provides outstanding customer service is to connect callers with a live person 24/7 when they call the toll-free number. The reduction of customer service representatives across the state prompted customer relations and MoDOT leadership to identify new ways to maximize our pool of experts and continue to provide the level of service our customers have come to expect. The result? The "bucket" concept!

The "bucket" concept works like this - If a call goes to the St. Louis District (or any district) and all customer service representatives are busy, causing the caller to go into the queue; if that customer is on hold for four minutes, the call is then routed to the next available customer service representative... anywhere in the state!



Tina Grothoff, Central District

"We don't anticipate a lot of calls rolling over, except potentially during an incident, yet it's another way we can continue to connect our callers with knowledgeable people who will help them get their information as quickly as possible," said Mara Campbell, director of customer relations.

The "bucket" was implemented May 1 after district and statewide testing, as well as training for customer service representatives and their backups. With

a current customer satisfaction rating of 87 percent, MoDOT is committed to continuing to provide outstanding customer service.



Janis Gieck, Central District

May Service Anniversaries

35 Years

David R. Berry NE

30 Years

Darrell Klocke NE
Tony E. Nichols CD
Dennis D. Blankenship SW
Barbara K. Marshall TP

25 Years

Chris A. Teel KC
Warren R. Zeller KC
John P. Ohlms SL
Gaila M. Campbell SW
Raymond A. Kinard CO

20 Years

Michael S. Flake NE
Tana L. Akright NE
Willie M. Stennis KC
Charles L. Harris KC
Jerry P. Davis SW
L. Linn Davault SE
Joseph D. Crum SE
Forrest D. House SE
Richard J. Russell SE
Robert D. Bechel CO
Dean D. Franke CO
Jeffery S. Joens CO
Kelly D. Hammack CO
Elizabeth J. Skouby CO

15 Years

Donald D. Troester NW
Thomas K. Brenner NE
Ronald D. Calvin NE
Donald D. Williams NE

Russell L. Gander NE
Steve n C. Rench NE
Robert D. Johnson KC
Timothy E. Sims KC
Deborah J. Huffman KC
Laurie A. Travis CD
Wilber L. Barton CD
David A. Perkins SL
Patricia Q. Breece SL
James D. Colonna SL
Mollie D. LeBlanc SL
Douglas E. Durham SW
Tony C. Phillips SW
James M. Demann SW
Mary E. Slaughter SW
Clinton D. Erwin SW
David L. Toler SW
Steven W. Rightnowar SE
Joseph D. Mullen SE
Bruce Smith SE

10 Years

Bryan K. Pash NW
Tina K. Kavanaugh NW
Jeffrey J. Dennis NW
Tonya R. Lohman NW
Danny S. Conway NW
Jeffrey W. Miller KC
William T. Gray KC
T.J. Williams KC
Leslie A. Bunton CD
Anthony G. Middendorf CD
Justin E. Nelson CD
Kimberly A. Hickey CD
Rusty L. Quick CD
Jason P Morff CD
Christopher A. Graham CD
Daniel L. Goff CD
David L. Herzog SL
Susan J. Marshall SW

Marcus G. Dalton SW
David W. Henry SW
Warren D. Bailey SW
Ray Strain SW
Stephen E. Atkisson SW
Kary J. Youngblood SW
David G. Twyman SW
Mary E. Shrubb SE
Angela L. Temple SE
Mark A. Baumann SE
Dustin H. Cooper SE
Allen L. Hull SE
Lori A. Tackett CO
Angela D. Sutton CO
Christa A. Luebbering CO

5 Years

Melvin L. Perkins NW
Brennen L. Price NW
Jonathan A. Gust NW
Daniel R. Ragan NW

Ellissha N. Maddox NW
William H. James KC
Russell L. Fisher KC
Stephen C. Wilson KC
Richard R. Allen KC
Matthew D. Comer KC
Tyler E. Smith KC
Jeremy D. Hake CD
Randall W. Weaver CD
George W. Owen CD
Donald E. Meyer CD
Joshua B. Rollins CD
Tyrone Barnes CD
Sheldon Redel CD
Philip A. Dietrich SL
Roderick Q. Mondaine SL
Richard E. Skyles SE
Justin D. Huddleston SE
Paul A. Mathis SE
Dianna L. Weber CO
Mathew D. Brune CO
Brian L. Plaster CO

February Retirements

Name	District	Years of Service
David Johnson	NW	29
Richard Knipp	KC	25
Scott Humphrey	KC	28
Paul Russ	KC	29
Bruce Woods	CD	26
Howard Lawson	CD	33
Lonnie Cooper	CD	33
Edward Warhol	SL	28
Larry Colson	SW	38
Janice Brite	SW	14
James Miller	SW	27
Ronald Wheeler	SW	29

In Memoriam

Retirees			
Willis Crews	Former D8	Feb. 20	
Robert Cannon	SW District	Mar. 1	
Victor Sloan	Former D1	Mar. 2	
Gary Booth	Former D1	Mar. 9	
Charles Spencer	Former D7	Mar. 9	
Norman Beisly	Former D7	Mar. 9	
Carl Fife	Former D7	Mar. 9	
Stanton Wake	Former D1	Mar. 14	
Max Howard	CO	Mar. 16	
Gerald Kampeter	CO	Mar. 18	
Dorn Pickering	Former D1	Mar. 20	

Central Office

Getting Green at Earth Day

by Holly Denter & Trevor Griswold

Earth Day celebrations on the Missouri State Capitol lawn have been taking place for the last 18 years. As usual, MoDOT was there on Friday, April 20 to encourage students, teachers, and parents about the importance of keeping Missouri roadways clean and litter free.

"We have an environmentally-themed game for the students to play and hundreds of white pine seedlings to hand out," said Stacy Armstrong, roadside management specialist. "We want everyone to have a good time, but also pick up on the important message we're sharing with them."

MoDOT uses the Earth Day event to encourage everyone to participate in its annual No More Trash! Bash, a litter prevention campaign that takes place in April. This is the tenth year for the program, which is a partnership with the Missouri Department of Conservation.

It's also the 25th year for MoDOT's



Adopt-A-Highway program. Thousands of bags of litter are collected from Missouri highways by adopter groups who dedicate their time.

"We talk to kids about the trash bash and Adopt-A-Highway because they're great ways to clean up Missouri and educate the public about the negative impact litter has on our environment," said Armstrong. "We are grateful for



Nathan Muenks, senior environmental specialist, distributed pine saplings at this year's Earth Day Celebration on the Capitol grounds.



the work these volunteers do, because for every state-maintained mile that's mowed, landscaped, or kept litter-free,

MoDOT can devote its resources to other critical areas."

Something new for this year's Earth Day celebration was a live Internet broadcast of the event from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources website. With coverage of the day's activities and special announcements made by all the agencies involved, the broadcast was a way to make everyone across the state and country a part of the celebration.

The first Earth Day was held in 1970, and led to the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Now, 42 years later, Missouri's Earth Day celebration educates children and adults about ways they can help create a cleaner and better place to live.

Out With the Old, In With the New

The New Connections That Is

by Tammy Wallace

Many individuals have a tendency to change their look occasionally. It's easy to try a different hair cut or color, or different style of clothing, it makes us feel reinvigorated. Well that's exactly what's on tap for the Connections publication; we're switching things up a bit and pumping some new life into an old standard.

For eight years Connections has pretty much been in the same format, a monthly publication with relatively the same look. With the order of business being to work smarter and cut costs, the revamping of this publication covers all the bases.

Our goal is to provide a timely, informative and newsworthy employee publication that takes less time to produce and reduces costs, following the path of the Bolder Five-Year Direction. The

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

new Connections will simply provide a better way to communicate with employees. Here's where we're heading:

- An electronic newsletter - no longer will an outside vendor be printing thousands of copies and no postage required
- More frequent publications (every other week on Thursday rather than once a month) is more timely and newsworthy for employees
- An easier layout means staff time will be reduced
- There will be more flexibility with content

To test the new on-line version, a mock edition was created and feedback from

employees across the state solicited. Well over 100 employees had the opportunity to test the mock edition and offer comments. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive and a few tweaks are being made from the suggestions we received.

Beginning with the August edition, the new on-line Connections will be distributed to all users via email every other Thursday and posted on the internet. We will ask building supervisors to print one copy to share with those whose access to email is limited.

"The best thing about this new on-line version is that employees will receive information every other week rather than once a month," said Customer Relations Director Mara Campbell.

"This frequency will make Connections a much better communication tool."

Because we will not be printing the newsletter, retirees will no longer receive copies mailed to their homes; they

will have to view the publication on the internet. "We know this is going to be a change for many of our retirees," said Campbell, but we know they too realize we must do everything we can to cut costs at every opportunity." Campbell noted our retirees are a valuable asset and hopes they will continue to stay in touch with the organization by reading the on-line version.

For convenience, retirees can sign up to receive an email notification each time the new on-line version of Connections is published. The email will provide a link to the most recent newsletter. Simply visit the website at www.modot.org/eupdate to sign up to our E-Update System and select the "Connections" option.

The customer relations staff are excited to bring this new on-line version of Connections to employees. For those of you who are fans of Connections in its current format, no worries, the new version is going to be fantastic!

for more info

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Northwest District

Barrel Bob & Baby Bob

by Melissa Black



M. Elaine Justus

Senior Office Assistant Amber Dydell (left) and Senior Procurement Agent Darrel Butcher were two of the four people responsible for the "birthing" of Barrel Bob and Baby Bob.

With the construction season, motorists will not only be seeing orange barrels in the work zones to protect them – they'll be seeing two brand new MoDOT Northwest District employees! Introducing for the first time in the Northwest District our very own Barrel Bob, and the very first Baby Bob as well!

Made entirely with normal stockroom supplies, and employee creativity, Barrel Bob and Baby Bob were created in one of the garage bays at the district office in late March by several industrious employees: Facilities Operations

Specialist Craig Campbell, Senior Materials Technician Caleb Phillips, Senior Office Assistant Amber Dydell and Senior Procurement Agent Darrel Butcher.

Barrel Bob spent Work Zone Awareness Week April 23-April 27 at the district office then traveling around the district to promote work zone safety in various work zones, projects and other areas. We asked folks who find him to snap a photo and send it in to the MoDOT Northwest District on Facebook or on our Twitter page. We can't wait to see the photos!



Melissa Black

Senior Office Assistant Amber Dydell (left) and Senior Materials Technician Caleb Phillips used a variety of tools to assemble the dynamic orange duo.

NW Employees Live to Innovate!

Story and photos by Melissa Black



Maintenance Supervisor Bill Gimse shows how the Wonder Chute innovation works by pouring rock through the chute into the buckets below. "We asked what we could come up with to make the job easier and this was it," Gimse said. "It's called the Wonder Chute, cause we wondered if it would work!"



District Maintenance and Traffic Division Engineer Marty Liles, Traffic Operations Engineer Koelle Barbour and District Safety and Health Manager Diane Sipes check out the innovations while at the statewide Maintenance meeting in Springfield.



Senior Maintenance Worker Archie Gandy and Maintenance Crew Leader Sam Stockdall explain the Scoring Bit to visitors. "It was just a 15-minute idea that's helped save our crew tons of time," said Stockdall.

for more info

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Seatbelt Spotters

by M. Elaine Justus

Area high schools have been under assault lately, but in a good way. There has been a statewide effort by MoDOT to try and convince teenage drivers to use their seatbelts. From 2009 to 2011, 254 teens were killed in Missouri traffic crashes, and 75 percent of Missouri teens killed in crashes were not wearing



Holly L. Hailey

East Buchanan High School. Taken March 29.



Melissa Black

Lafayette High School was just one of three Buchanan County high schools chosen for the "seatbelt spotting" event. Taken March 27.



M. Elaine Justus

Mid-Buchanan High School. Taken March 22.

seatbelts. Three local high schools were the locations for a "seatbelt spotting" operation. What's that? At 7 a.m., representatives from MoDOT, Eagle Radio and the Buchanan County Sheriff's Office joined forces to meet students from Mid-Buchanan, Lafayette and

East Buchanan as they drove into their school parking lots. If their seatbelts were fastened, they received an invitation to join a drawing for free pizzas, car washes or tickets to Schlitterbahn's water park. Unbelted, they received educational materials about the risk they are taking with their lives.



District Engineer Don Wichern congratulates Facilities Operations Specialist Joe Cooper and Senior Maintenance Worker Joe Graves for their Sign Pulley innovation. "Our employees continuously amaze me with the ingenious ways they find to make their jobs safer, while saving time and money. Necessity truly is the mother of invention," Wichern said.



Maintenance Crew Leader Mark Corbin and Senior Maintenance Worker Steve Rodgers explain to Director Kevin Keith how they used the Tab Remover to remove 28 miles of pavement tabs.



Area Engineer Tonya Lohman performs a mock media interview during the statewide maintenance meeting. Several of the visitors from the Northwest District participated in these mock media interviews.

Northeast District

It's a Media Blitz Every Month at MoDOT

There are many ways for MoDOT to proactively share transportation messages, and one utilized frequently in the NE District is participating in the many free radio programs available on several stations. "It is vital we be accessible to our many customers through public and providing proactive information on a regular basis through radio is another complement to our communication efforts," said NE District Engineer Paula Gough.

"We currently have regular interviews, most of them monthly, on nine radio stations throughout the district," said Paula. She, along with Assistant District Engineer Kevin James, the three area engineers and the customer relations staff coordinate to make MoDOT available to airwave listeners.

"This is only one of the media utilized to share information, and we continually get

caller questions during the broadcast, and our media praises the efforts we put forth to engage their audiences," she added.

Each month, the district focuses its radio interviews on a particular topic to complement the statewide messages, as well as provide updated information about projects in the area.



Area Engineer Amy Crawford is a regular guest on KMEM Radio's "Coffee Break" hosted by Rick Fischer.

Cross Training Supports Five-Year Direction

With the implementation of the Bolder Five-Year Direction, the survey department found itself needing help. The good thing is the construction inspectors are familiar with the process of surveying, yet both departments use different equipment. The other good thing is that surveying can be done year round, while the construction tends to be slower in the winter months. All these factors have made it possible for construction inspectors to become familiar with the survey department's process, allowing them to be an extension of that department.

"With GPS capabilities, we have sped up what we can do with less people, which means we are able to help out when times are slower," said Chris Brownell, a senior construction inspector in the Hannibal Project Office who is learning to survey bridges.

District Land Survey Manager Steve Dickson is thrilled to have additional support. "With surveying, we can plan ahead what needs to be done for future projects, and a lot of it can be done



Kent Worthington and Chris Brownell, construction inspectors, work with Jon Brewer of survey to learn about new GPS tools available for surveying.

through the winter when construction is slower," he said. "We've reduced our staff significantly, and while a lot of projects may not be funded, we can work ahead with the staff and still be available when something comes up that is needed quickly," he added. Chris said with the long-term cross training in place, he and others in construction will be able to fully complete the survey process.

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Around the district...



4. The Children's Christmas Committee held an Easter Egg Hunt, and about 50 MoDOT kids participated. 5. The Macon Regional Office held a blood drive last month and recognized the more than 285 units given by Macon MoDOT employees over the last three years. Pictured is Herman Harris, outdoor advertising permit specialist. 6. Eric Curtit, administrator of railroads for MoDOT, led the statewide rail plan meeting in Hannibal last month. 7. Barrel Bob has made several appearances in northeast Missouri and helped kick off Work Zone Awareness Week in April. He was built by Andy Dittmer and Corey Bringer of the Canton maintenance building.



Kansas City District

More Than an Annual Meeting

ITS Heartland Conference Gauges the Pulse of Intelligent Transportation in the Midwest

by Gina Myles

Kansas City Scout and the KC District hosted the 13th Annual ITS Heartland Conference March 26-28, in Kansas City. E. Jason Sims, KC Scout Manager, served as president of the 2011-2012 ITS Heartland Chapter, including Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska and Oklahoma. Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) “leverages technology which is more critical now than ever in bridging the gap in transportation funding shortfalls and keeping our viable,” said Sims.

The conference kicked off with the Fourth Annual ITS Heartland Operations and Incident Management Symposium, moderated by Rusty James, KC Scout’s Incident Management Coordinator. Breakout sessions highlighted Traffic Incident Management (TIM) and Operations Working Groups (OWG). The sessions closed with a joint TIM and OWG panel discussion that shared traffic incident management coordination programs, successes and initiatives. Approximately 180 people from regional law enforcement, fire departments, DOTs, tow and recovery agencies and other first responders attended this symposium.

Monday night’s inauguration of the ITS Heartland Conference was a night filled with fun at the Ice Breaker and networking event. The night’s entertainment consisted of “non-profit” corporate gaming for prizes and a live jazz band. A good time was had by all leaving everyone prepared to engage in stimulating conversation for the

upcoming first day of the conference the next morning.

The official first day of the ITS Heartland Conference began with a Vendor sponsored breakfast and showcase. The opening session was moderated by Sims and a distinguished panel of keynote speakers. KC District Engineer Dan Niec spoke about how proud he is of the Scout system and how impressed he was of Scout’s leadership under the direction Mr. Sims. Other panel members consisted Jerry Younger representing KDOT, Don Hillis, Assistant Chief Engineer from MoDOT’s Central office who commented “I remember when ITS was in its infancy 15 years ago and no one supported the project, we had to fight to get it off the ground. Now we are here attending the 13th Annual ITS Heartland Conference and celebrating the growth of ITS, it is a very proud moment for me because I was there from the beginning.” The last panelist was Nu Rosenbohm, Chief Technology Officer of ITS America.

The remaining portion of the conference consisted of five sessions over the course of two days. The first session was the Heartland States Update, followed by ATIS (Advanced Traveler Information Systems): Looking Ahead to a New Era of Traveler Information. Alternative Transportation Technologies was the theme for the next session which focused on new and alternative transportation technologies. The last sessions wrapped up the final day

of the conference with Information Technology Support for ITS, and Operations and Maintenance looking back at major events in 2011: the I-680 Flood Reconstruction in Iowa; 20 Minutes in May - The Joplin Tornado; and a presentation by Federal Highways on Turning Projects into Programs.

The 2012 ITS Heartland was a huge success attended by over 290 transportation professionals and employees from the KC District supported the conference in great numbers. It was informative with interesting sessions and provided great



KC District Engineer Dan Niec addressed the crowd during the opening session for the 13th Annual ITS Heartland Conference.

networking opportunities for those in the intelligent transportation field.

Minds Are Mixing: Help Shape the Future of I-70 in Kansas City

April Community Meeting, On-line Town Hall Offer Early, On-going Opportunities

by Jennifer Benefield

A recent community meeting and on-line virtual town hall are just two of the many ways MoDOT and partners are seeking input from the public on how to improve about seven miles of I-70 in Jackson County from The Paseo interchange to the Blue Ridge Cutoff interchange.

The first I-70 Second Tier Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) community meeting was held Tuesday, April 17 at the Gregg/Klice Community Center in Kansas City, Mo. Representatives from the I-70 Second Tier EIS study team and MoDOT, and Community Advisory Group members were available to listen to concerns and gather input about the transportation problems that the study is intended to address.

Minds are also mixing at an ongoing “virtual” town hall meeting: <http://www.metroi70.com/>. A smart phone, laptop, desktop, or tablet computer can be used to easily participate on line with other community members to discuss how best to increase safety, im-

prove key bottlenecks, or expand upon/support other people’s ideas.

The study began in December 2011, will last about 30 months, and conclude in spring 2014. It builds upon the broader work of the I-70 First Tier EIS to help devise a more detailed plan on how to best improve the safety and conditions of I-70. The portion of interstate under study is experiencing pavement and bridge deterioration, traffic delays and congestion, and merging/weaving issues at interchanges.

Although there is currently no funding for design and construction, completing this study is an important step in having the project ready to go should funding become available.

To learn more, please contact visit the project website: www.modot.mo.gov/kansascity/metroi70

Join the conversation: <http://www.metroi70.com> or contact MoDOT Transportation Planning Specialist Allan Zafft at 816-607-2258, allan.zafft@modot.mo.gov



Kansas City Scout Manager and 2011-2012 ITS Heartland President, Jason Sims addresses the opening session.

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Area Engineer Matt Killion (standing left) and Transportation Planning Specialist Allan Zafft (standing right) facilitate the second meeting of the I-70 Second Tier EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) Community Advisory Group March 23. The group worked together on a dot exercise designed to identify problems along seven miles of I-70 between The Paseo Boulevard and Blue Ridge Cutoff interchanges.

Photo by Jennifer Benefield

Central District

Matthew England Heroes Way Memorial Signs Unveiled

Friends and family of Private First Class Matthew J. England hosted a dedication ceremony for England's "Heroes Way" interchange signs on April 14 at the Missouri Veterans Cemetery at Fort Leonard Wood in Waynesville.

Private First Class England of Gainesville, Mo., was a soldier in the United States Army serving in support of Operation New Dawn in Iraq. He died at age 22 on June 8, 2011, of injuries sustained when enemy forces attacked his unit in An Najaf Province, Iraq.

PFC England was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas before deploying to Iraq. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign with Bronze Service Star, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Combat Action Badge,

Combat and Special Skill Badge Basic Marksmanship Qualification Badge (Rifle, Expert) and the Overseas Service Bar. England also earned his Drivers Wheeled Component Certificate.

England attended school at Lutie R-VI Accelerated School in Theodosia, Mo. where he was in the Honors Society and graduated as salutatorian. He was also the president of the Tech Club, played basketball, and participated in other student activities. In addition to serving in the US Army, England was working hard at earning his college degree.

PFC England's Heroes Way memorial signs are located on Interstate 44 near exit 156 in Waynesville. Missouri State Representative Lyle Rowland sponsored legislation to designate the interchange in England's memory. The Heroes Way Interstate Interchange



Family and friends of PFC Matthew England gathered at Ft. Leonard Wood on April 14 to unveil the Heroes Way memorial signs honoring him.

Program legislation, passed in 2009, allows interstate interchanges to be designated for Missouri residents who were in the armed forces and killed in ac-

tion on or after Sept. 11, 2001, in either Afghanistan or Iraq.

School of the Osage Promotes Teen Safety

On April 10, juniors and seniors at the School of the Osage in Osage Beach witnessed a hard-hitting dramatization designed to show them firsthand the consequences of impaired and distracted driving.

While most of the students watched from the audience, several of their peers re-enacted a crash scene caused by impaired driving. The safety dramatization was complete with law enforcement and emergency medical services involvement. Even the University of Missouri Health Systems' Staff for Life helicopter and the local coroner and funeral home played a role. While the blood was fake, the emotions were not.

The Central Region Blueprint Coalition helped sponsor the event, which the school puts on every other year. Students videotaped the dramatization, which was shown immediately afterward to the school's freshman and sophomore students.

"What better way to get teens' attention than through their friends and fellow students?" said Central District Engineer. Dave Silvester. "This docudrama was one of the most impressive safety presentations I've ever seen, and I'm hopeful it will have a lasting impression on the students who witnessed it."



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Meet Our New Customer Service Reps

Tina Grothoff and Janis Gieck joined the Central District as customer service representatives on April 2.

Tina has worked for MoDOT for 26 years. She started in the Design Division Print Shop. That's where she met her husband Darryl, who still works for the Print Shop. Tina and Darryl have two sons, Vince and Anton. Tina has worked in Design, Procurement (Purchasing and Travel Services) and Motor Carriers.

Janis has worked for MoDOT for 20 years. She started in Bridge Maintenance painting bridges as a member of the bridge crew. She has held various jobs at Central Office, most recently working for Travel Services and General Services planning conferences and meetings. In her spare time, she likes to watch Blues Hockey, the St. Louis Cardinals and college basketball.



Tina Grothoff



Janis Gieck

Safe & Sound



Safe & Sound bridges in the Central District are opening and closing almost daily. Here Central District staff and Maries County commissioners get ready to cut the ribbon to open the Route 28 bridge over Dry Creek Fork.

St. Louis District

Two St. Louis Entries Win Statewide Innovations Challenge

by Kara Price

Congratulations St. Louis district on being two of the four statewide winners in the 2011 Innovations Challenge!! St. Louis won \$20,000 for the district to use on its upcoming maintenance priorities.

Steve Fisher, Beaufort senior maintenance worker, won the “Best in Show” award. He created the blade raiser, which is a modified two-wheel dolly to simplify installation of blades to the snowplow and motor grader. This is now a one-man operation with little lifting required.

Frank Tidd, Desoto maintenance supervisor; Kevin Golden, Desoto senior maintenance worker; and Tony Boyster, Desoto senior maintenance

worker won the “Best Process in State.” They used a coal burning waste product to fill edge ruts along highly traveled minor routes. They entered a process to screen “free” cinders to remove the 3/8” pieces and larger to be used for edge rut material. The cinder fines are then used for snow removal. The 3/8” material used for edge ruts on minor roads has proven over the past two years to remain in place without erosion.

As Tidd stated, “I am proud of our innovative solution and, I sold a bucket of rocks for \$10,000.”

Congratulations to these innovative St. Louis employees!



“Edge Rut Material” entry won “Best in Process” in the statewide competition.

Remembering St. Louis Fallen Workers

by Kara Price

MoDOT employees and families of five employees killed in the line of duty gathered during Work Zone Safety Awareness Week (week of April 23) to pay homage to the 26 men and women who have been killed on St. Louis roadways since 1946. About 100 employees and families of Jeffrey McBride, Ken Hoierman, George Wieda, Eugene George and Larry Licklider gathered at the event, held at the Memorial Rock outside of the St. Louis district office. Also, 30 employ-

ees from the Franklin County area team and families of two employees killed in work zones gathered at the St. Clair maintenance building’s new memorial rock that week.

MoDOT mentioned it will continue to remember these honorable fallen workers and do everything in our power to prevent another family from losing a husband, wife, father, mother, brother, sister to an unnecessary work zone crash.

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St. Louis Leads Multiple No MOre Trash! Bashes

by Kara Price

Multiple St. Louis transportation partners went “green” this April to make Missouri beautiful during the annual No MOre Trash! Bash.

MoDOT officials, local elected officials and community partners kicked off the “green” efforts by picking up trash at several different areas throughout the St. Louis metropolitan area,

media to garner as much awareness and attention for our litter-prevention efforts as possible.

The St. Louis district went above and beyond with hosting four bash events that attracted media attention all over the district, including newspapers, television, radio and online news sources.



Officials from the office of St. Louis City Mayor Francis Slay helped MoDOT pick up litter along I-70 at Lambert Airport.

including St. Louis City, St. Charles, Jefferson and SouthWest Counties. These partners stressed for St. Louis motorists to take a few hours and join them in efforts to clean up Missouri and work toward a litter-free state.

These events are part of the month-long, 2012 No MOre Trash!

The Missouri Department of Conservation brought Peanut the Turtle to the St. Louis City trash bash and discussed how litter badly affected her life. The red-eared turtle had gotten stuck in a plastic ring from a six-pack that someone had thrown on the ground instead of in a trashcan. The ring got hung

around her shell. About five years passed and the turtle grew, but the ring did not. Eventually, her shell grew around the ring but stayed small where it was wrapped around her. Finally, someone found Peanut and took her to the zoo in St. Louis where the ring was cut off. They named her Peanut because of the shape of her shell and gave her to the Missouri Department of Conservation where she now lives and is doing well.



Peanut the Turtle

Bash sponsored by the Missouri Departments of Transportation and Conservation. During the entire month of April, efforts are aimed at getting people to clean up litter all across Missouri from roadsides, to parks, to rivers and streams.

Every year, each district is encouraged to start the Bash by hosting a cleanup/kickoff event and to invite all local

For more information about the No MOre Trash! Bash initiative and how you can do your part, visit nomore-trash.org.

Southwest District

Work Zone Awareness Message: Rate Our Work Zones for Safety

by Bob Edwards

A plea to the public to avoid distracted driving and a request for help in making work zones safer highlighted Work Zone Awareness Week activities in the Southwest District.

Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission Chairman Rudy Farber of Neosho joined District Engineer Becky Baltz in a Work Zone Awareness media briefing in Joplin. Assistant District Engineer Andy Mueller led a similar briefing in Springfield. Participants at each location included several Southwest District construction and maintenance employees and representatives of several contractors – Journagan Construction, Hartman Construction, Archer-Western Contractors and APAC-Missouri.

New Rate Our Work Zone signs, discussed with reporters, were put up on three construction projects. The locations are Route 65 resurfacing and bridge rehabilitation between Ozark and Branson, the Main (Route 43) and Zora street interchange construction in Joplin and the Route 71/TT interchange construction north of Nevada.

However, district executives said work zone surveys could be submitted online

for any MoDOT work zone.

The idea is that people can tell MoDOT what they like about a work zone or what they think can be improved to make the work zone more understand-

able and safer for drivers and workers alike.

“This is for you,” Mueller said, addressing drivers through the news media. “There’s something big in it, ... and that is keeping you and your family safe.”

In asking for work zone ratings, Baltz said, “It’s really important for us to understand the driver’s perspective, and we really appreciate your involvement and input on our work zones.”

Two “Barrel Bob” safety

figures, built by Jeremy Hopper and Justin Hughes of the Building Crew, will be on display at various locations around the district.



District Engineer Becky Baltz speaks on Work Zone Awareness at a news briefing in Joplin Signing & Striping.



MoDOT and contractors join forces at a Work Zone Awareness news briefing at Springfield Maintenance. Among participants are Branson Senior Construction Inspector Brian Todd, left, District Maintenance Engineer Michael Middleton, second from left, and Incident Response Coordinator Earl Wallace, to the right of the Rate Our Work Zone sign.



Bob Edwards

SW District at Work

1. Repairing joints on Webster County Route CC (old U.S. 66) near Niangua are, from left, Springfield Maintenance Crew Leader Chris Dame, Marshfield Senior Maintenance Worker Tim Hill, Springfield Maintenance Worker Paul McKnight and Marshfield Crew Leader Chris Curtis.

2. Checking the height of a new overhead truss sign on I-44 at Route 71 in Joplin are Neosho Senior Construction Inspector Kevin Durbin, left, and Neosho Intermediate Construction Inspector Erin Van Roekel, right.

3. Taking inventory in the Joplin Signal Shop is Carthage Intermediate Financial Services Specialist Lorri Cole, right, working with Joplin Signal Electrician Gilbert Valdez.



Lori Marble

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SW District's 4th 'Diverging Diamond' Being Built

by Bob Edwards

Construction began in April on the Southwest District's fourth Diverging Diamond Interchange – this one at Chestnut Expressway and Route 65 on Springfield's far east side.

The DDI configuration was chosen to reduce traffic backups on the Route 65 off-ramps and along Chestnut Expressway underneath Route 65.

With the DDI design, drivers will have a “free” left-turn from Chestnut Ex-

pressway onto the Route 65 on-ramps, eliminating one signal phase.

“You’re going to have more green time for any of the (remaining) signalized movements” helping move more traffic faster, Project Manager Don Saiko said. Completion is in December.

Chestnut Expressway (Bus. Route 65) is a major east-west corridor across the center of Springfield. East Chestnut Expressway at Route 65 carries 25,000 cars a day, many of which come from growing areas to the north, east and south of Springfield.

Another project being planned for the future is a new Chestnut Expressway bridge over the busy Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railroad tracks just west of Route 65. That project will eliminate

an at-grade crossing of a busy Burlington Northern-Santa Fe track, alleviating backups that clog Chestnut Expressway and, at times, the nearby off-ramps from Route 65.

Construction will begin later this year to convert two more Southwest District interchanges to a DDI – Kansas Expressway (Route 13) and James River Freeway (Route 60) in Springfield and Range Line Road (Bus. Route 71) and I-44 in Joplin.

The Diverging Diamond Interchange at Kansas Expressway and I-44 in Springfield was the first one of its kind built in the United States, opening in 2009. Then DDIs were built at National Avenue and Route 65 in Springfield in 2010 and at Route 248 and Route 65 in Branson in 2011.

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South District

PVT Ova A. Kelley Medal of Honor Memorial Bridge Dedication Ceremony

On April 13, family, friends, military comrades and students from Norwood Schools gathered to honor PVT Ova A. Kelley. Kelley was a United States Army soldier and recipient of the U.S. military's highest decoration, the Medal of Honor, for his actions in World War II.

He was born in Norwood, Mo., on March 27, 1914. Kelley joined the United States Army and served Company A, 382nd Infantry Regiment, 96th Infantry Division at the time of his death. He single-handedly attacked an entrenched Japanese position and led a charge which destroyed the remainder of the Japanese force on Dec. 8, 1944. He was shot by a sniper soon after and died of his wounds two days later on Dec. 10, 1944. Kelley was laid to rest at Oak Grove Cemetery in Norwood, Mo., and was awarded the Medal of Honor on Oct. 19, 1945.

Representative Tony Dugger sponsored legislation, which named the bridge on Route E over Route 60 in Wright County the PVT Ova A. Kelley Memorial Bridge. Signed by Governor Jay Nixon, the law became effective on Aug. 28, 2011.

Speakers included:

- Mr. Lincoln Connell, Norwood High School Junior



Hundreds gathered to honor PVT Ova A. Kelley at the memorial bridge dedication ceremony in April.

- Ms. Megan Hammer, Constituent Services Representative, on behalf of U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill
- Ms. Stacy Burks, Field Representative, on behalf of U.S. Senator Roy Blunt
- Ms. Jennifer Riegel, Rolla District Office Director, on behalf of U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson
- State Commander Olin Parks, Missouri Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Mr. Edwin Wright, PVT in Company K, 382nd Infantry Regiment, 96th Infantry Division (Retired)
- Mr. Chris Rutledge, Assistant District Engineer, MoDOT

Videos and photos from the dedication ceremony are available online at http://www.modot.org/southeast/news_and_information/special_events.

SE Innovation Named Statewide Winner

During this year's Innovations Challenge, the Southeast District's hydraulic pressure release wrenches were named one of the top innovations in the state.

The hydraulic pressure release wrenches were invented to eliminate the danger of being sprayed by hot fluid when reattaching hydraulic hoses.

"The wrenches make connecting the tow plow much safer," said Maintenance Superintendent Dan Sherbo. "Prior to implementation, crews often used a hammer when attempting to relieve hydraulic pressure in the lines, which often resulted in lost fluid."

He explained in addition to making the process safer, the innovation helps MoDOT become more environmentally responsible by allowing any lost fluid to be captured.

The wrenches are available for both male and female fittings. Additionally, while the wrenches were originally designed for tow plow hydraulic lines, they will work on any hydraulic line.

"A lot of thought and ingenuity went into creating the hydraulic pressure release wrenches," said Sherbo. "I continue to be impressed with the efforts and creativity of our maintenance crews across the state. The crews consistently develop ways to perform their jobs more efficiently."

As winners of the challenge, the district will receive an additional \$10,000 for the maintenance budget. The innovation will also be implemented across the state.

"The primary goal of the Innovations Challenge is to give employees across the state a chance to share best practices with other districts," said Assistant District Maintenance Engineer Stan Johnson. "There were a lot great ideas presented at the statewide showcase, and it is an honor for our innovation to be recognized."

For more information on the SE District's innovations, please visit <http://wwwwi/intranet/d10/Innovations2011-2012.htm>.



The hydraulic pressure release wrenches allow Southeast District crews to safely relieve hydraulic pressure, without the risk of being sprayed by the hot fluid. Additionally, the innovation helps MoDOT become more environmentally responsible.

MoDOT's Southeast District Markets Properties New Facilities for Sale in Arbyrd and Brazeau

In an effort to bring in extra funds for roadway and bridge projects, the Southeast District is currently selling multiple properties. Parcels in Cape Girardeau, Stoddard, Butler, Perry, Dunklin and Pemiscot Counties are included in the department's Realty to Roads campaign. The latest additions to the campaign include former maintenance facilities in Arbyrd and Brazeau.

The Arbyrd maintenance facility is a 3.9-acre parcel located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Route 412 and County Road 610 in Dunklin County. There are several structures on the property, including a shop building, cold storage building, salt storage building, concrete fuel containment basin and portable sheds. A concrete pad is also located on the site.

The Brazeau maintenance facility is a 3.43-acre parcel located on the north side of Route C, approximately 750 feet west of the intersection of Routes C and D in Perry County. There are several structures on the property, including a shop/garage, concrete containment area for gas trucks, open front material storage building and equipment hoist pavilion.

Both parcels will be sold by sealed bid. Bids will be opened and read at 1 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 31 for the Arbyrd and Brazeau facilities, respectively.

"While the Southeast District no longer needs this land, the parcels are valuable

and we want to find the right buyers," said Right of Way Specialist Michael Smith.

Smith added that the sale of excess right of way saves maintenance costs, reduces liability and puts the property back on the tax rolls to the advantage of local communities.

For more information about the Southeast District properties, please contact Smith at (573) 472-5286 or visit <http://www.modot.org/southeast/RealtytoRoads.htm>.

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Connections

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Work Zone Awareness Kickoff Event In St. Louis

by Andrew Gates

Missouri got a chance to bring a national focus to work zone awareness in April when St. Louis hosted the national kickoff event for Work Zone Awareness Week.

The week is held annually to remind drivers about the importance of slowing down and paying attention in work zones.

The national event in St. Louis was held April 23 on the Route 141 construction project in St. Louis. The \$45 million project is the state's largest American Recovery and Reinvestment Act project. It involves several traffic switches, bypass routes and extensive work zones throughout a two-mile stretch of heavily traveled Route 141.

Federal Highway Administrator Victor Mendez, Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission Chair Rudy Farber, and Missouri State Highway Patrol Commander Ronald Replogle were among the distinguished guests speaking at the event.

"One death in a work zone is one too many. Remember, whenever you get behind the wheel, especially when you are in a work zone, please buckle up

and put down your cell phones," said Administrator Mendez.

As part of the event, the department set up traffic cones with boots, work vests and hard hats to represent the 130 MoDOT workers killed on duty since 1932. The department also hosted the "National Work Zone Memorial - Respect and Remembrance: Reflections of Life on the Road." This traveling memorial is a living tribute to the memory of the countless individuals who have lost their lives in the nation's work zones. It travels to communities cross-country year-round. The intent is to raise public awareness of the need to respect and stay safe in America's roadway work zones.

"MoDOT dedicates a lot of time and resources to work zone awareness, because we believe that safety is paramount in all that we do. We want to keep our workers safe and the people driving in our work zones safe," said MHTC Chairman Farber.

Every April since 2000, the Federal Highway Administration, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and the American Traffic Safety Services Association have partnered together to host a national event to recognize and focus on roadway work zone safety.

The original concept was to rotate the annual April "kickoff" within the Washington, D.C. metro area between the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia. That changed when the national WZAW executive committee concluded the best way to determine a host state for the 2012 and future national media events would be through a competitive selection process. Missouri was the first state selected to host this annual kickoff.



MHTC Chair Rudy Farber addresses the crowd.

"We wanted to select a state that's doing something wonderful that could be shared with the rest of the nation," says James Baron, director of communications for the American Traffic Safety Services Association. "The national committee selected Missouri because we were really impressed with what the state is doing with work zone awareness."

Over the past years, the department's efforts included:

- lighting landmarks around Missouri orange,
- encouraging drivers to safely share information to improve work zone safety, and
- working with Missouri sports teams and businesses to encourage work zone safety.

A video of the kickoff event can be viewed at <http://tinyurl.com/7xqlvls>.

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Safety Jackpot

The new safety incentive program is coming in July. Watch for more details coming soon....

